

**CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES
MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2005**

At 5:02 p.m. Chairman Lee Panza called the meeting to order in the Second Floor Auditorium at the San Mateo Transit District Office.

Members Attending: Chairman Lee Panza, Vice-Chair Sue Lempert, Deborah Gordon, Marc Hershman, Irene O'Connell, Joe Silva, Mike King, and Deborah Wilder.

Staff/ Guests Attending: Mary McMillan (County Manager's Office), Julie Lancelle (City Council – Pacifica), David Burruto (Speaker Pro Tem Leland Yee's Office), Richard Napier (C/CAG Executive Director), Brian Moura (City of San Carlos), Walter Martone (C/CAG Staff), Rosalie O'Mahony (C/CAG Member - Burlingame), Randy Rentschler (Metropolitan Transportation Commission), Bijan Sartipi (Caltrans), Nancy Blair (C/CAG Staff), Geoff Kline (C/CAG Staff).

1. Public comment on items not on the agenda.

None

2. Minutes of the Meeting of December 9, 2004.

*Motion: To approve the minutes of December 9, 2004 as presented.
Wilder/Hershman, unanimous.*

3. Update from C/CAG's Lobbyist in Sacramento (via conference call).

Wes Lujan reported:

Regarding the Governor's proposed budget – all of the lobbies are opposing it. It contains elements of pension reform and less money for education than had been promised. The Governor appears to be keeping his promise to local governments not seek additional cuts beyond the \$1.3 billion that was negotiated last year. It is still unknown whether he intends to raid redevelopment funds. The League of Cities is preparing for the worst in this budget proposal.

The Governor has indicated that he will push for reforms to the Proposition 98 education funding formula.

The Democrats in the Legislature appear to have backed away from their campaign to raise new revenues. Various polls have shown that this position was not very popular with the voters.

Assembly Speaker Nuñez and Senate President pro Tempore Perata are encouraging the Governor to stand up to special interests that are trying to influence the budget decisions.

The Governor is considering a proposal to suspend Proposition 42 for the next two years and repay the borrowed funds over a 15-year period. He has indicated that this proposal may include a Constitution Amendment to restrict further borrowing from this funding source.

Some of the transportation funds that will be the result of the selling of bonds may become available in approximately 15 months.

The California Performance Review is showing only nominal budget savings as a result of the elimination/consolidation of various boards and commissions. The Governor however, has still indicated that he will propose a reorganization of State Government in order to make it function more efficiently.

Senator Chesbro may be proposing a new bond measure to support parks.

The Governor has indicated that he will call a special session of the Legislature in November if he does not get action on some of the proposals that he will be submitting to the Legislature. Reapportionment and redistricting are at the top of his list. There may be some room to negotiate a compromise on these items if the Governor is willing to support changes to the requirements for term limits.

Although the Governor appears to not be targeting local governments for additional cutbacks, it is unknown whether the Legislature will follow suit.

Advocation Staff have started discussion with Assemblymembers Harman and Mullin and the League of Cities, about sponsoring a bill similar to ACA 10 from the last Legislative Session. A meeting has been planned to develop a strategy for getting such a bill introduced. Advocation will also be working with the environmentalists on the Governor's staff to encourage support for such a bill, and to encourage them to develop support among Republican Legislators.

Senator Campbell, together with the California Tax Association and the Howard Jarvis Tax Group, are sponsoring an Initiative to prevent future State deficits. It is feared that this Initiative will also rescind some existing fees and taxes.

Finance Director Tom Campbell has been very involved with the negotiations on the budget. It was recommended that Advocation set up a meeting with Mr. Campbell by March in order to reacquaint him with San Mateo County elected officials and our issues.

ACA 7 – This new bill will reduce the voting threshold for special taxes. So far there has been no action on this bill.

4. Review and approval of Legislative score sheet for Legislators.

Staff reported that the score sheet was redesigned to reflect the comments of the Legislative Committee. In the future the Committee will identify the items that were of most importance to C/CAG and then assign a weight to these items. The scoring will then reflect how our Legislators voted and helped in moving C/CAG's priorities.

Motion: To approve Legislative Score Sheet as presented. Wilder/Lempert, unanimous.

5. Bay Bridge replacement design and financing.

The discussion on this item included the following comments:

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has adopted a set of principles related to the construction, design, and financing of the Bridge. The matter is now in the hands of the Governor and the Legislature.

MTC does not believe that it will be cheaper and faster to start all over again with a new design for the Bridge. If the Skyway design had been selected originally, there may have been some cost savings; however at the time the cost estimates did not show that the Suspension Bridge design would be substantially more expensive.

Now that this design has already passed much of the review and permit processes, it would be costly and time consuming to redo the process for a new design.

The number one goal of Caltrans is to build a bridge as fast and cost effective as possible.

Caltrans is confident that the Suspension Bridge can be built safely, but they have concerns about unforeseen construction issues that could result in time delays and further cost overruns. This particular design has never been built in a location where there are seismic issues and potential problems with connections to the Island and the rest of the Bridge structure.

Caltrans feels that the Skyway can be completed by 2011 at a savings of \$300 to \$500 million, provided that the decision to proceed is reached soon.

It is likely that the Bay Area will have some sort of a toll increase in order to pay part of the cost of the Bridge construction.

Senator McClintock has been quoted as saying that it is time to re-look at the possibility of building a new southern crossing.

After discussion, the Committee generally agreed that the most important issues to C/CAG regarding this Bridge project are seismic safety, equitable cost sharing and not diverting any of the Regional Measure 2 funds to pay for the Bridge. By consensus the Committee decided to wait until the Governor and the Legislature has had more discussion on this matter and specific proposals are presented. The Legislative Committee will discuss this item further after some of this additional information becomes available.

6. Review and approval of the C/CAG Board State Legislative Priorities for the 2005 State Legislative Session.

Due to the fact that this item was to be discussed at the C/CAG Board Retreat, there was no discussion at the Legislative Committee meeting.

7. Establish date and time for next meeting (February 10, 2005).

The next meeting was set for February 10, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fourth Floor Dining Room at the San Mateo County Transit District Office.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.